



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West Monroe Man Dies Following Christmas Day Fire

OUACHITA PARISH- A West Monroe man has succumbed to injuries he suffered in a house fire on Christmas Day night.

Just after 10 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 25, the Ouachita Parish Fire Department responded to a report of a house fire located in the 100 block of Lilac Street in West Monroe. Upon arrival, firefighters located an unresponsive man near the back door of the home. The victim, the 80-year-old homeowner, was transported to an area hospital for treatment, but, unfortunately, died days later on Dec. 28.

After an assessment of the scene and collecting witness statements, SFM deputies determined the victim had been burning books and branches inside metal containers in the living room as a heat source due to the home not having utilities connected. The investigation into how that fire spread beyond the containers and got out of control is still under investigation.

This is another sad loss of life that highlights the safe home heating tips the SFM has been sharing with the public since before last weekend's frigid weather. In addition to advising not to create any type of burn pile, contained or otherwise, inside of a home, those tips include:

- Place space heaters 3-5 feet from combustible objects like blankets and curtains
- Plug all heating appliances directly into wall outlets, not power strips or extension cords
- Do not use stoves, ovens, or grills to heat homes
- Don't overfill fireplaces/wood-burning stoves
- Do not leave candles/open flames (or space heaters) left unattended

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